



AETC Bases News Clips

LUKE AFB, AZ



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Salt caverns wrong place for natural gas storage

Site too close to everything

Jan. 24, 2004 12:00 AM

The defensive lineup, on paper, is rock-solid - about as good as it gets. There are the mayors and managers of every municipality in the West Valley, the supervisors from Maricopa County, landowners and residents, top brass at Luke Air Force Base and for good measure, state lawmakers.

But as impressive as this list of combatants is, theirs is probably not an impregnable defense against plans of El Paso Natural Gas Co. to store a huge amount of gas - 9.6 billion cubic feet - in three salt caverns underground in the West Valley. That's because the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission will have the last word.

We hope it doesn't get to that point. El Paso has been briefing West Valley officials for the past couple of months, and the information the company has disclosed - to be blunt - hasn't set well.

City after city is passing resolutions against the proposal. The Board of Supervisors has taken a strong stand as well. State Rep. John Nelson, a Glendale Republican, has introduced legislation to prohibit large natural gas storage facilities from being located within three miles of a municipal boundary, airport, military airport or school. It should be a legislative priority.

El Paso, which owns the land near El Mirage Road between Northern and Glendale avenues, should listen to the people. Despite company promises of safety, any way you slice it a storage facility within a mile of Luke Air Force Base and its base housing, hospital and elementary school is the height of foolishness.

Call it contempt for the local residents, the nearby businesses, local governments and Luke, the nation's premier training base for F-16 pilots.

The concerns are legitimate. They are twofold: safety of so large an amount of natural gas stored underground in an urban setting and the impact a project of this magnitude would have on Luke's mission and base's ability to survive the next round of closings in 2005.

To say the least, a storage facility and a 36-inch pipeline around the base and across its Accident Potential Zone are as compatible as oil and water.

El Paso makes the case that growth in the Valley will increase the demand for natural gas and that a storage facility would give customers adequate supplies at lower cost when there are sudden surges in demand. It's a logical argument that demonstrates the need for more infrastructure in the region to accommodate our growth curve, whether it be El Paso or some other gas company willing to supply the gas that we'll need.

That said, the potential impact of El Paso proposed Copper Eagle storage facility is far too great a risk. An independent risk analysis revealed that under certain climate conditions, a gas leak of 7 percent of capacity could produce an explosive plume covering an area of 2.8 miles, which, according to Rusty Mitchell, chief of Luke's community initiatives team, would "cover the entire base."

The opposition of the base, cities, lawmakers and landowners is solely based on the location. They are all too familiar with an El Paso pipeline explosion in 2000 near Carlsbad, N.M., that killed 12 campers.

Surely there are salt caverns not smack in the middle of a vast urban area - a region that will get denser in the years ahead. They would be far more appropriate.

The Arizona Republic

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Vance AFB OK



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Local congressional delegation works hard for Vance

1/25/04

By Frank Lucas

In response to your editorial Thursday, "Local Lawmakers Should Bring Washington Heavyweights to Vance Air Force Base," I think this editorial misses the mark. First, it casually omits the specific work that I, Sen. Inhofe, and the rest of the Oklahoma congressional delegation have already done to project Vance as a premiere U.S. military installation, instead dismissively asking that we take a more active public role. And it recommends we change our current strategy of focusing on doing things that will actually strengthen our hand to a BRAC Commission. That's a strategy that I believe would be detrimental to our cause to keep Vance from being closed.

First, let me make it clear that I've been working with leaders at Vance, Enid city leaders, and Sen. Jim Inhofe for the past eight years to ensure we have a base that meets the criteria for the next BRAC round. Every annual appropriation season, every discussion with Department of Defense officials, and every conversation with Vance and Enid officials has begun with the same question: What can we do to help make Vance BRAC-proof?

I opposed the inclusion of this BRAC round, and I've worked with others to provide federal funding for necessary projects to help increase the base's efficiency and effectiveness. We've provided \$11.4 million for the construction of 59 new housing units at the base, \$17.4 million for runway, taxiway, and highway repairs on the base, \$14.4 million for the Base Engineering Complex, and \$15 million to construct a Consolidated Logistics Complex.

In addition to these and other funding successes, each year we've brought together officials from Vance and pentagon officials, including a meeting with top Department of Defense BRAC officials and Air Force Secretary Roche.

To the uninitiated, it would seem that a tour of the base by other members of Congress could help our BRAC round chances. While it's true, as you said in your column, a "tour wouldn't hurt," right now, with the BRAC round only a year away, it's very important that we focus on those things that will actually help us be successful during the BRAC round. Keep in mind, Duncan Hunter, R-Calif., has six bases in or around his own congressional district that will be his first priority to maintaining in the next BRAC round.

Remember, the BRAC Commission will not be made up of members of Congress, media, or even the military "heavyweights." It will be civilian commissioners selected to give a thorough assessment of all military facilities based on the criteria set out by the commission. These commissions are designed and set up so that politics or popularity aren't factors. That's good news for Vance, which has perfectly positioned itself to meet the criteria the BRAC Commission will use.

Your editorial asks, "why can't Vance attract national attention?" Those bases that I see are getting national attention, are getting it because they're on the BRAC chopping block. They haven't done what we've done to prepare Vance for the next BRAC round. Vance has been quietly preparing - through community efforts, base construction, and federal funding. I'd suggest that national attention isn't necessarily a good thing right now.

What we need to do to protect Vance is exactly what we've already been doing for the past nine years - focusing on making Vance the best possible military facility based on the criteria that will be used by the BRAC Commission. When we present our case to the Commission using these criteria, they'll know what we know that Vance Air Force Base is vital to our military's mission now and in the future.

Lucas, R-Cheyenne, represents Oklahoma's 3rd Congressional District in the U.S. House of Representatives.

Enid News & Eagle

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Proposed 60,000-home development under fire in Pinal County

Shaun McKinnon and Mary Jo Pitzl

The Arizona Republic

Jan. 29, 2004 12:01 AM

On its own, any plan to drop a city the size of Tempe in the Arizona desert would stir dissent and draw regulators' scrutiny.

La Osa Ranch isn't just any plan.

Before the first lot is sold, the master-planned community in southern Pinal County and its developer, Scottsdale-based Johnson International, are under investigation by as many as five state and federal agencies. Three have cited the builder for illegal activities on the site.

Military officials say the project's size and location, more than 60,000 homes on 19,000 acres near the Pinal-Pima county line north of Marana, would threaten a critical flight corridor used to train jet pilots and could force the closure of a \$1 billion attack-helicopter base that operates a few miles away.

Opposition has swollen to include environmentalists worried about wildlife habitats and the nearby Ironwood Forest National Monument, archaeologists who say the developer has disturbed ancient ruins, and officials from Marana and Pima County who are fearful of the demands of as many as 175,000 new residents.

"It has turned into the biggest snowball I've ever had to deal with," said Jenny Neely of Defenders of Wildlife. "The potential consequences of this can't be overstated. It would be a disaster, an environmental disaster."

But the project also means tax revenue for Pinal County and the promise of jobs and business development, factors that will weigh heavily today when the county's Planning and Zoning Commission considers the project.

Many county residents support La Osa and say it's time the region shared in Arizona's growth. They resent the involvement of outsiders.

"It's the greatest thing I've ever heard of," said Carl Stevenson, who runs a ranch near Red Rock. "The environmental people who are so concerned, if they lived there I don't see how they could

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feel that way. The people at Red Rock are very enthused about it."

Even if the proposal is rejected by commissioners, it could still win approval by the three-member Board of Supervisors, who have watched the case closely from the sidelines.

Explosive growth

No matter what happens, the proposal has refocused attention on Pinal County's explosive growth, which is spreading out in every direction and chewing away at the stretch between Phoenix and Tucson.

With La Osa Ranch, Johnson International would build a city where little exists, rolling out homes, retail centers, business parks and even a resort.

Developer George Johnson, who has built other communities on the edges of urban Phoenix and Tucson, has tried to keep the commission focused on the benefits. The developer has promised to hire the necessary specialists and deal with other stakeholders when the time is right, most likely after zoning has been approved.

Johnson representatives say the county can either approve a well-organized master-planned community now, one that can bring with it the resources to provide infrastructure or wait for a hodgepodge of other subdivisions that can't support themselves.

"We have been working on this project since 1985," Johnson consultant Charles Hulsey told the Planning Commission. "It's a very nice piece of ground that's already cleared by ranching and farming, and it's prime for development."

Pima County officials told Pinal planners that the project would conflict with plans to allow only sparse development near the national monument and around some of the foothills along the Pinal-Pima line. Marana officials said they fear their schools will be overrun by students from the community.

La Osa also would add thousands of vehicles to the two-lane stretch of Interstate 10. Widening that stretch is not yet a priority for the state Department of Transportation.

Water poses another challenge. Johnson will have to earn an assured-water-supply certificate from the state Department of Water Resources. But groundwater restrictions in Pinal County are not as tough as they are in Maricopa and Pima counties. Because much of the site is now used for agriculture, Johnson can convert irrigation rights to residential use. The company also owns its own utility, which has access to other water.

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Planning commissioners heard testimony about La Osa in December but postponed their vote and ordered Johnson to resolve a lengthy list of problems associated with the project. Many of those problems remain unresolved.

- The military's use of the area has slowly overshadowed concerns raised by environmental groups. Attack helicopter pilots for the Arizona National Guard fly night missions over the site, activities that likely couldn't continue if homes were built.

"We will not be able to use the entire training area that we think we need to train (pilots)," said retired Army Col. Michael Virgin of the state Department of Emergency and Military Affairs.

Military jets also fly over La Osa on their way to the Barry M. Goldwater Range. Officials say losing those paths could add another strike against Luke Air Force Base, which is fighting residential encroachment in the Valley.

Johnson officials said they planned to discuss La Osa with the military once the zoning case was approved. After the December hearing, Johnson himself toured the helicopter base with commissioners.

- The Bureau of Land Management, which oversees the adjacent Ironwood Forest National Monument, forced Johnson to exclude about 2,100 acres of public land from his zoning request. Johnson had failed to identify the acres as federal and did not approach the bureau about an exchange.

The BLM also issued a trespass notice against Johnson when some of his herd of 5,000 goats escaped from the ranch in December. Authorities say the goats infected a herd of bighorn sheep with a disease that has blinded some and left others with a skin ailment.

After measuring the damage done to the plants that provide forage for wild animals as well as the cost of removing the goats, the company will be fined, said Tony Herrell, manager of the Ironwood Forest National Monument.

In addition, BLM will cite Johnson for blading a road into a 40-acre tract of public land just north of the monument.

- The State Land Department on Dec. 9 issued a default notice to Johnson for two violations of its state land lease. The department cited the company for cutting trees without permission and charged that the developer violated state laws protecting native plants and archaeological resources.

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Johnson himself replied to the lease default by complaining that the reasons given for the violations were inadequate. He asked for more information so his company can fix the problems. He said he was aware of "inadvertent clearing of some vegetation on state land" but called the allegations about disturbing archaeological sites a revelation.

- The Arizona State Museum launched an investigation in December into possible destruction of Hohokam Indian sites that date to A.D. 600. About 30 acres of an ancient village, as well as 5 to 10 acres of another village, were damaged, said John Madsen, who administers permits under the Arizona Antiquities Act for the state museum.

River, wash affected

- The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, which controls U.S. waterways, started its own investigation last month after it received reports of dredging activity that affects the Los Robles Wash and the Santa Cruz River. Sallie McGuire, a senior project manager for the corps, said the investigation is ongoing, but penalties could range from fines to a requirement that the waterway be restored to its original condition. .

Johnson has told the corps that the excavation was part of normal ranch work. If that is the case, McGuire said the company could be exempt from the agency's regulations.

- The Arizona Department of Environmental Quality has publicly tangled with Johnson over alleged water-quality violations related to the excavation. The agency issued two notices of violation in December, claiming that the excavation was done without the required permit and that the pollution that resulted from dumping the debris in the wash violated water-quality laws.

Johnson, as in the other instances, has said the excavation was routine agricultural activity, which is exempt from the permit requirement. The company also claimed that ADEQ had cited the wrong property owner in its notice but later acknowledged that the corporation cited by ADEQ is controlled by Johnson.

Johnson officials have filed a complaint with the state Department of Administration, alleging that ADEQ is harassing the firm and seeking relief.

Critics complain that Johnson International is impervious to the sting of financial penalties. Some, like Pinal County activist Jon Schumaker, believe that the company's actions appear to be calculated gambles to move ahead without the needed permits, with the fines written off as a cost of doing business.

"I think the guy is using the approach of 'it's easier to do now and apologize later,' " he said.

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Defense study looks at commissary pricing

Despite congressional criticism and charges by military associations of benefit tampering, the Department of Defense has hired consultants to do a quick study on use of "variable pricing" in base grocery stores.

By law, commissary items are sold at cost plus a 5 percent surcharge, which is used to renovate and replace aging stores. With variable pricing, items could be sold above or below cost. But to test the concept, the Bush administration needs to win approval from a skeptical Congress.

The \$500,000 study began Jan. 12 and has a tight deadline. A final report is due to the Defense Commissary Agency by Feb. 27.

"If the study says variable pricing won't work in commissaries, we won't pursue it," department officials said in written responses to questions posed by Military Update.

Rep. John McHugh, R-N.Y., chairman of the House armed services subcommittee that oversees military stores, said he worries the department seeks to raise store prices and use the revenues to reduce the \$1.2 billion that the department spends on commissary operations annually.

"The clear danger of variable pricing is that where you charge less (for some items), you're inclined in other areas to charge more," McHugh said.

"And if what you're trying to do is find justification to cut appropriations to commissaries, you use it as a means to increase revenues."

Defense officials said variable pricing, in theory, should provide "greater flexibility to manage the overall savings that customers receive."

The goal, they continued, would be "to provide average savings to commissary customers of 30 percent over similar items sold by commercial grocers, regardless of the location of the commissary where they shop."

This administration is the first to adopt a specific 30-percent savings goal for commissary shoppers. Some critics note that the current average savings is 32 percent over commercial grocers. By replacing cost-plus-five-percent with variable pricing, they suggest, the department could convert any savings now over 30 percent into revenues via higher prices. Rather than stay in shopper pockets, the money could reduce the \$1.2 billion subsidy.

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Defense officials admit to trying to lower the subsidy. But they contend variable pricing could create a "better commissary benefit."

"Although average savings in the United States are 32 percent, some customers save over 50 percent while others save less than 20 percent. We are interested in determining the feasibility of using variable pricing to more evenly distribute savings to all commissary shoppers," officials said.

The House Armed Services Committee will oppose any initiative that would raise prices or reduce the commissary subsidy, McHugh said.

Besides being a threat to shopper savings, he added, variable pricing could change the character of commissary shopping.

"It goes contrary to the across-the-board savings concept that has been extended to virtually every item on commissary shelves since commissaries were in existence," McHugh said. More patrons will feel obliged to comparison shop off base. Over time, he said, the convenience of commissary shopping will be weakened and so will the benefit.

With McHugh and House colleagues vowing to protect shoppers from variable pricing, service associations hope to shore up Senate support.

In a letter Jan. 16 to Sen. John Warner, R-Va., chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee, James D. Stanton, executive director of the Air Force Sergeants Association, said "it defies logic that DOD could successfully manipulate costs to make the annual \$1.2 billion commissary appropriation go away without transferring the cost to the beneficiary."

The administration's intent, he said, is to shift the cost of running commissaries from "all American taxpayers to military taxpayers." He urged Warner to resist any variable pricing plan the department might propose.

It seems the Defense Commissary Agency even opposes the idea. In the January edition of What's New, a newsletter for employees, agency leaders said they reviewed variable pricing and concluded it "would fundamentally alter the benefit, fundamentally alter our relationships with our business partners and would not be a prudent action to take."

Still, the agency this month awarded the contract for a Variable Pricing Feasibility Study to two firms, Dove Consulting Group Inc. of Boston and Willard Bishop Consulting Ltd., of Barrington, Ill.

McHugh and Rep. Vic Snyder, D-Ark., the ranking Democrat on the Total Force Subcommittee, had complained to Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld last November that the then-proposed study raised doubts about the administration's commitment to preserving the commissary benefit.

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McHugh got a more formal response Jan. 9 from David Chu, under secretary of defense for personnel and readiness. DOD "intends to maintain the commissary benefit, while securing its use for future generations of our armed forces," Chu said. As proof, he noted that the department had doubled recent investment in new and renovated stores. He pointed to rising customer service ratings and sustained price savings.

Chu also said, however, that the department is committed to "instituting efficiencies that keep the taxpayer subsidy reasonable."

If the study endorses variable pricing, Defense officials likely will ask Congress for money and authority to test the concept in the fiscal 2006.

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Pinal development decision postponed

By Shaun McKinnon
The Arizona Republic

FLORENCE — Frustrated Pinal County planning commissioners on Thursday postponed for another 45 days a final decision on plans to build a Tempe-size city in the desert south of Eloy.

Ignoring protests from developer George Johnson, who sought a vote even if it meant losing, the Planning and Zoning Commission instead asked him and his staff to resolve questions about the project's effects on military operations in the area. A new vote was scheduled for March 18.

The outcome pleased few. A visibly upset Johnson refused to comment as he left the hearing room. Several members of the commission called the delay unfair and others grumbled about facing yet another meeting on the project, known as La Osa Ranch.

"I'm sincere when I say I think Mr. Johnson's project has potentially very good merit for this county," Commissioner Scott Riggins said, "but I want to see these questions answered."

The commission twice failed

to send the proposal on to the Board of Supervisors, first with a recommendation to approve the zoning request and then with one to deny it. The supervisors can accept the commission's vote or ignore it and issue their own decision.

Commission member Pat Dugan pushed for a vote either way, but fellow Commissioner Kate Kenyon bristled at that approach: "In other words, we're passing the buck," she said.

Johnson and his Scottsdale-based company, Johnson International, could withdraw the plans altogether.

The developer had already scaled back plans for the project, which would be built west of Interstate 10 just north of the Pima County line. The revised proposal calls for just more than 50,000 homes on about 15,000 acres, down from the original 67,000 homes on nearly 20,000 acres.

But that wasn't enough to satisfy opponents, an unusual alliance of environmentalists, the military and several Arizona Indian tribes. They argued that Johnson had moved ahead with plans for La Osa Ranch without consulting other land users and

as a result, they said his proposal posed unacceptable threats.

The military took center stage Thursday and seemed to raise the most questions among planning commissioners. Officials said the homes would sit squarely beneath three critical jet routes and would disrupt operations at one of the nation's premier attack helicopter training bases.

"There is no place to move the routes," said Terry Hansen, chairman of the statewide Military Airspace Working Group. "The airspace supports the military mission. We need it. We can't afford to lose it."

Military jets fly about 1,500 sorties a year across those three routes, Hansen said, often at altitudes as low as 300 to 800 feet above the ground.

The Arizona National Guard trains attack helicopter pilots at the nearby Silverbell Army Helipoint, sending out battalions of the giant birds at low levels, often late at night, Brig. Gen. Bruce Bodin said. The Army intends to expand the base, but could instead lose it completely if La Osa Ranch is built as proposed.

Johnson officials are prepared to work with the military to find a way for the homes and the aircraft to co-exist, said Charles Hulsey, a consultant for the developer, but the first priority was the zoning case.

Hulsey urged commissioners to consider the significant revenue La Osa Ranch would generate, noting that the military bases put little if any money into the local economy.

Commissioners discussed a plan to link approval of La Osa Ranch to a compromise with the military, a suggestion that rankled Johnson.

"We're willing to work with the military, but the way you put it, the military could stop us. If the military can stop us, that's a taking," he said, referring to a government action that overrides an owner's property rights.

The other big issue Thursday was the allegation that Johnson's work crews had disturbed Indian ruins on the project site.

Representatives from four Arizona Indian communities asked the commission to hold Johnson more accountable for activities on what tribal leaders consider ancestral lands.

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Perry, senator spar on BRAC

By Sig Christenson

Express-News Military Writer

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The state's highest-profile Republicans are at odds over Pentagon draft guidelines for next year's round of base closures, with some suggesting the differing opinions are rooted in a brewing political fight for the Governor's Mansion.

Less than 24 hours after Gov. Rick Perry embraced the draft guidelines in a much-publicized announcement just down the road from Fort Hood, Sen. Kay Bailey Hutchison fired off a letter to the Pentagon rejecting the guidelines and asking for changes she believes would give Texas bases a better chance of survival.

Ex-Reagan-era assistant defense secretary Lawrence Korb warned that the conflicting messages represent a Texas-size time bomb.

"Since there's disagreement, (Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld) can say, 'I'm sorry, senator, but the governor supports me,'" explained Korb, a senior fellow with the Center for American Progress, a Washington think tank. "Whenever there's a difference of opinion among the leaders, he'll pick the one he likes."

Last month, a Scripps Howard poll found that if Perry ran against Hutchison for governor in 2006, Perry would get support from 41 percent of the GOP primary voters to 45 percent for Hutchison.

Hutchison hasn't said she will run for governor, but she hasn't ruled it out, either.

Austin political consultant Bill Miller said he doesn't perceive any personality conflict between Perry and Hutchison; he said the differing views are more likely a matter of career paths intersecting at the Governor's Mansion.

"I've never picked up any animosity between them," Miller said. "It is just ambition. They've both been very successful in their respective careers, and if it's true that she wants to come back to Texas, it's that ambition."

Hutchison's comments about the guidelines, made Thursday in a letter to Undersecretary of Defense Peter Potochney, were a sharp contrast to Perry's upbeat acceptance of the guidelines Wednesday before a supportive crowd of Killeen-area business, civic and government leaders.

Hutchison said the guidelines, to be used by the 2005 Defense Base Closure and Realignment Commission (BRAC) to shutter installations, need two changes before they are completed in March.

She argues that they should call for scrutinizing overseas installations and determine how eliminating U.S. facilities would affect homeland security.

"Our nation is not dealing with the same threats as we were in 1995 and therefore we must develop new strategies to ensure the military does not close a base, only to later realize its costly mistake," Hutchison

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wrote. "It would be unwise to close or realign domestic bases that may be needed for troops returning from outdated facilities abroad."

Perry expressed no such concerns in his appearance in Killeen and gave no advance notice of his announcement to Hutchison or Republican John Cornyn, the state's other senator.

His three-page letter to Rumsfeld welcomed the draft criteria and talked up "the aggressive initiatives Texas is undertaking to enhance the state's relationship with our military installations."

Perry spokesman Robert Black said his boss made the right call.

"The governor makes decisions on state issues every day, and in this case he made the decision on behalf of the state of Texas, that the criteria was acceptable," Black said. "The governor's had the BRAC criteria for more than a month and did not hear any concerns expressed by Sen. Hutchison."

Cornyn's spokesman, Don Stewart, said Cornyn doesn't disagree with Hutchison's call for changes in the guidelines, but said Cornyn is reserving public remarks until the official commentary period is over.

Several officials were surprised Perry didn't give Cornyn and Hutchison advance notice of his decision on the BRAC criteria, particularly given the two senators' positions in Congress.

A former member of the Senate Armed Services Committee, Hutchison has forged a bipartisan relationship with Texas lawmakers on military issues and now sits on the Senate Appropriations Committee and its subcommittees on defense and military construction.

Over the past five years, the panel has pumped \$1.2 billion in military construction funds to Texas bases for such things as new enlisted housing and training facilities.

Though he's a fresh face on Capitol Hill, Cornyn sits on the Senate Armed Services Committee and a panel that oversees the base closure process.

One of those standing with the governor when he made his announcement Wednesday was retired Army Col. Ralph C. Gauer.

He said he wasn't aware Perry hadn't contacted Cornyn or Hutchison. And although he didn't criticize Perry, he echoed others in stressing the need to have a cooperative relationship as the 2005 BRAC round ensues.

"It's important that everybody from the individual municipality up through the federal government work good together, but let's leave it at that," said Gauer, vice chairman of the Texas Military Preparedness Commission, which is under Perry's control.

Mayor Ed Garza said that at this point in the BRAC process "certainly we want to be on the same page, from the federal level down to the local level."

His predecessor concurred.



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"Maybe we get a pass on this, but we certainly need to be more together in the coming months," said former Mayor Howard Peak, who devoted much of his time to bolstering Brooks City-Base and other local installations in the wake of Kelly AFB's demise.

Of the 17 major installations in Texas, Brooks is among the most vulnerable. It employs 3,559 civilian, contract and military workers, one-fourth of them with advanced degrees, and is seen as a key to San Antonio's high-tech growth.

Installations in Ingleside, San Angelo and Texarkana also are believed at risk.

Leaders in those three cities say a closure order would devastate their communities.

Black wouldn't say if Perry would give advance notice of future BRAC-related actions but sketched a rosy picture of how Texas lawmakers would work.

"The governor believes that at the end of the day, when it comes to BRAC, both the leaders in Texas and in Washington will work with one voice to make sure that our installations put their best foot forward during the process and that the story of Texas is told," he said.